

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

International Application No. : PCT/EP2003/007194
Application No. : To Be Assigned
First Named Inventor : Alexander JURMANN
Filed : January 14, 2005
Docket No. : 038724.55803US
Customer No. : 23911
Title : VACUUM CARBURIZING METHOD AND DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing

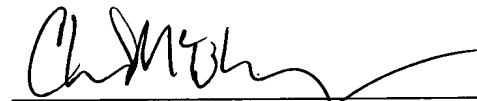
International Application No.: PCT/EP2003/007194
Attorney Docket No.: 038724.55803US
Information Disclosure Statement dated February 8, 2005

date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

February 8, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>		<h3 style="text-align: center;">Complete if Known</h3> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td style="width: 50%;">To Be Assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>January 14, 2005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Alexander JURMANN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>038724.55803US</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	To Be Assigned	Filing Date	January 14, 2005	First Named Inventor	Alexander JURMANN	Art Unit		Examiner Name		Attorney Docket Number	038724.55803US
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Examiner Name															
Attorney Docket Number	038724.55803US														
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
		US- 4,432,852		11-11-1980	LIMQUE et al.	
		US- 4,472,209		09-18-1984	LAENGERICHET et al.	
		US-				
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
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		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					
		DE 26 36 273 A1		02-16-1978	Ipsen Industries Internaitonal GmbH		
		DE 37 25 174 A1		02-09-1989	Linde AG		
		EP 0 156 147 B1		10-02-1985	Linde AG		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		International Search Report	

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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